

not succeed in any enterprise unless you throw all you have into it and then throw yourself into it. No pessimistic man should go into the pulpit. Throw away that long face and despondent look and become an optimist, for God cannot use a discouraged man.

Another trait of character that is so much needed in the pulpit is *courage*. Peter says add to your faith virtue, that meant in the day when the Bible was translated, grit. More ministers fail because they lack moral courage than from any other one thing in life. The pulpit needs more Nathans to day who will say, "Thou art the man." More John the Baptists who are not afraid to cry out, "It is not lawful for thee." Men are needed in the world to-day, says Senator Beveridge, who have not only the courage of their convictions but the courage of their conceptions.

*Prudence* is a mother element of Christian character so often lacking in the pulpit. Add to your faith virtue or courage and to courage prudence, says Peter. Many men who have courage have no wisdom, no discretion, no prudence. Many ministers destroy their usefulness by injudicious sayings and indiscrete action.

We need more grit in the pulpit, but add to your grit prudence. "Be ye wise as serpents and harmless as doves," "And if any man lack wisdom let him ask of God who giveth liberally to all men."

*Concentration* is very essential that the ministry of the Brethren church may be more efficient. Too many preachers of the Brethren church are bound by worldly environments. If all our preachers were poor and would forever stay poor, it would be a great blessing to our church. This truth, however, whether consciously or unconsciously, the church seems to have discovered and the minister who will wholly give himself to the work is not in peril of becoming spoiled by riches. But many of our best ministers are not willing to leave houses and lands for Christ's sake and consequently they are not of much use in the ministry. Therefore we need not only more concentration, but more *consecration*. Let all our ministers recognize the fact that the ministry is the highest, the noblest, and best calling that was ever given to man and then let us give ourselves wholly to it. Some of our most able and most successful preachers have left the pulpit in order that they might plunge into the arena of political corruption. Let us earnestly pray that this may not be repeated and that those erring ones may return to their sacred calling.

Let the Brethren minister remember that he needs character, reputation, knowledge, faith, courage, concentration, consecration. Let him be honest, sincere. Let him make an effort to discover how much he can put into the ministry, and not how much he can get out of it. Let him have that intense longing and that eager desire for the welfare and prosperity of the Brethren church,

which the Master himself manifested and the efficiency of the Brethren ministry will be increased.

How to increase its numbers? Let every congregation in the brotherhood send one young man every year to Ashland College with a view of preparing him for the ministry. Thank God we have an institution where young men may be safely sent and fully equipped for this sacred calling. And it now behooves every congregation in the brotherhood to make at least an effort to send young men to Ashland College that the number of our ministry may be increased. Sermons should be preached from every pulpit emphasizing the necessity of young men preparing themselves for the Brethren ministry. A fund should be provided for this purpose. The rich young man will never enter the ministry and the poor young man cannot because he has no means to prepare himself. Many a young man in the Brethren church has now a disposition to enter the ministry, but has no means whereby he may prepare himself for the work. To increase the number of our ministry it is therefore pre-eminently important that some way should be provided for the purpose of educating young men who have no means and are at the same time anxious to enter our ministry. And finally since the harvest truly is so great and the laborers are so few, let us therefore pray the Lord of the harvest that he may send forth more laborers into his vineyard. After all, those can only labor successfully for God whom God sends forth.

And now to be practical, and at the same time honest, have we been praying as ministers, and as a church that the numbers and efficiency of our ministry might be increased? Or have we rather been discouraging young men, who manifested a desire to enter the ministry? Have you any faith in God? Then do you not believe, that if we as a people would bring this matter before God, in prayer with that intense desire to be heard, that the Cyrophoenician woman displayed in behalf of her daughter, that even in one year's time, we would all be amazed at God's answer to prayer.

It is said when Francis Xavier was in Rome preparing to go on his great mission to the heathen he was heard by his friend Rodrigney uttering in his sleep the words—"Yet more! O my God yet more."

In his dream there had come to him a vision of his future career: of his sufferings, weariness, hunger, thirst, the storms to be battled, and the fiercer storms of heathen rage, the continents to be traveled, the rivers and seas to be crossed, danger and death on every hand. But along with these he saw the nations he would bring to Christ. Islands, continents, empires that would by his voice hear the gospel of the kingdom and he exclaimed, "Yet more, O my love yet more. More toil, more sufferings, more souls brought into eternal life."

Mr. Moody says that Dr. Duff made an appeal for India in 1866 to his church in

Scotland. They had plenty of money in the treasury but they could get no one to go to India. And the old missionary stood and plead, and wept for an hour and a half, and then he fainted away and they carried him into the vestibule and worked over him for some time. When he came to they said to him, do you know where you are? and for a few moments he seemed bewildered, and then he said, O yes, I know now. I was making an appeal for India before the general assembly. I didn't quite finish my speech. Take me back. But they told him if he went back he would do so at the peril of his life. But he said I must make one more plea for India. And when they brought the old man back the tears flowed all over the hall. He crept up to the desk and said, Is it true, fathers and mothers, that you have no more sons to give for India. The Lord Jesus has been calling for years for men to go and preach the gospel there, and the call has been denied, and word has come back that Scotland has no sons for India when the Queen calls for men for her army. Scotland is very anxious to get her sons enlisted, but the Lord wants them and the response is, we cannot spare our sons to go to India. If it is true, altho my health is broken down, and I have come here to die among my friends, if it is true I will pack up my clothes tomorrow and will be off to the shores of the Ganges, and let those men there know that there is one poor, old Scotchman that will die for them. That was one of the sublimest scenes ever witnessed and we need just such men in the Brethren church to-day. And when the Brethren preachers once get more of that kind of a spirit, yea, more of the spirit of the Master, the number and efficiency of our ministry will be increased.

#### THE GOSPEL WHICH PAUL PREACHED

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After Paul was baptized he remained certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the son of God, Acts 9:20. Some said, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange Gods: because he preached unto them Jesus and the resurrection, Acts 17:18.

He writes thus to the brethren at Corinth concerning the gospel which he had preached to them. Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all, that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures; and that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve, I Cor. 15:1-5.

Concerning his coming to them, his message, and its delivery he writes thus, and I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with